UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-18

January 3, 1928.

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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WORLD FLAXSEED SITUATION IN DECEMBER 1927

The world supply of flaxseed, based on production and carryover so far reported for 1927 is approximately 18,000,000 bushels or 16.7 per cent above the corresponding supply of 1926. Production alone, however, is 22 per cent higher. These estimates are based on production reported for 14 countries, which includes the United States, Canada and Argentina, and stocks of old crop at the beginning of the season for these three countries, assuming carryover for Argentina this year to be negligible. The only countries of importance not included are India and Russia. Prices have weakened somewhat during the past three months in three important markets, Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires, but the decline has been slightly less in the United States than in Canada or Argentina.

Production

Flaxseed production for 1927 in 14 countries including the United States, Canada and Argentina, is now estimated at 122,915,000 bushels against 101,037,000 bushels reported by the same countries in 1926, an increase of 21.7 per cent. The countries reported so far produced 71.2 per cent of the 1926 estimated world total excluding China. Russia and India are the only producers of importance yet to be reported. According to reports from the International Institute of Agriculture and from trade sources, the area sown to flax in Russia for the 1927 season was slightly below that of 1926. The first estimate of acreage for India is expected early in January. Production in Europe, other than Russia, is reported to be 2.5 per cent below that of last year, while the North American crop, due to an increased yield per acre in the United States, is now estimated at 31,318,000 bushels or 23.9 per cent above that of 1926, in spite of a reduction in the crop of Canada. Production in Argentina is expected to break all records, being estimated at 85,030,000 bushels, which is 23.1 per cent above that of last year. If confirmed by later estimates, this crop will be approximately 10,000,000 bushels above the record crop of 1925-26 when 75,113,000 bushels were harvested, and 25,000,000 bushels greater than any crop harvested previous to that of 1925-26. Tables on pages 4 and 5 show estimates of area and production for countries reporting in 1927. The total acreage reported for 25 countries which includes all important countries except India is 99.2 per cent of the area reported for the same countries last year. These countries last year accounted for 82.3 per cent of the estimated world total acreage exclusive of China.

Carryover and stocks

Supplies of old crop at the beginning of the 1927 season in so far as they are reported were below those of 1926. In the United States commercial stocks in store the first week of September were equal to those of the corresponding week last year, or 584,000 bushels. The stocks in store in Canada at the same time were 1,496,000 bushels compared with 2,026,000 bushels last year. Argentine carryover is believed to be negligible compared with 3,457,000 bushels a year ago. According to trade indications, exports of flaxseed from Argentina from October 10 to December 3 had already exceeded the official estimate of exportable surplus of October 12 by 5,000,000 bushels and had come within 500,000 bushels of the estimate of exportable surplus made by the "Times of Argentina". An average export movement for December is 3,000,000 bushels. For this reason, carryover of old crop flaxseed on January 1 in Argentina is expected to be negligible.

Stocks in North America on December 17 were above those of the same period in 1926. Commercial stocks in the United States for the third week of December were 4,505,000 bushels compared with 2,658,000 bushels last year, while stocks in Canada on the third Friday of December were estimated at 2,647,000 bushels, the corresponding figure for 1926 being 2,952,000 bushels, according to the report of the Board of Grain Commissioners of Canada.

Exports and imports

Imports of flaxseed into the United States during the first three months, September through November, of the present season were only 4,965,000 bushels compared with imports of 7,077,000 bushels during the corresponding period of 1926, or a decrease of 2,112,000 bushels. Shipments of flaxseed from Russia to other countries from January 1 to December 1, 1927 amounted to only 110,000 bushels compared with 1,941,000 bushels for the same period last year, according to an unofficial trade report. Shipments from India from January 1 to December 1, 1927 are reported by the trade to be 7,057,000 bushels, or 874,000 bushels above the 6,183,000 reported by them for the same period last year. The official figure of exports January 1 to November 30, 1926 is 6,763,000 bushels. The amount remaining for export to December 31, 1927 is estimated to be well below the actual shipments during the corresponding period of 1926, according to a trade source.

Prices

Prices in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires have been declining generally since September, although in Minneapolis and Winnipeg they rallied slightly the second and third week of November. In Buenos Aires the decline has been a steady one. It has been more noticeable in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires than in Minneapolis, and the margin of Minneapolis prices over those of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires has risen.

The following table gives weekly average prices per bushel of flaxseed in Winnipeg, Minneapolis and Buenos Aires from September to December, 1927. For monthly average prices in four important markets, 1924-25 to 1927-28, see Foreign Service Release, FF-16, November 25, 1927.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average prices per bushel in specified markets September, October, November, 1927, in dollars per bushel of 56 pounds

Month and week	Winnipeg	Minneapolis	Buenos Aires	Margins of Minneapolis price over	
	No. 1 N.W.C.	No. 1 N.W.C.	4% early delivery	Winnipeg	Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
September -					
1st	1.94	2.20	a/ 1.70	26	50
2d	1.95	2.21	1.72	26	49
3d	1.98	2.25	1.73	27	52
4th	1.94	2.19	1.69	25	50
October -					
1st	1.92	2.19	1.67	27	52
2d	1.92	2.18	1.67	26	51
3d	1.86	2.11	b/ 1.67	25	44
4th	1.82	2.08	1.63	26	45
November -					
1st	1.81	2.07	1.59	26	48
2d	1.86	2.13	1.60	27	53
3d	1.84	2.17	1.59	33	58
4th	1.83	2.16	1.58	33	58
December -					
1st	1.82	2.14	1.58	32	56
2d	1.81	2.14	1.57	33	57

Compiled from: Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by car lot sales compiled from Minneapolis Daily Market Record. Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York Journal of Commerce. Buenos Aires: New York Journal of Commerce.

a/ Quotation published for September 9 excluded from average due to great fluctuation. Quotation increased from 1.72 on September 8, to 2.05 on September 9, and returned to 1.73 on September 10.

b/ Quotation published for October 18 excluded from average due to great fluctuation. Quotation decreased from 1.68 on October 17, to 1.31 on October 18, and returned to 1.68 on October 19.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-13, annual 1924-27

Country	Average 1909-1913 a/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
United States	2,490	3,469	3,078	2,907	2,907	100.0
Canada	1,035	1,277	1,128	739	476	64.4
Argentina	4,113	6,322	6,201	6,672	7,055	105.7
3 other seed producing countries b/	135	197	241	228	229	100.4
Total 6 countries producing seed only	7,773	11,265	10,648	10,546	10,667	101.2
14 European countries previously reported b/	966	951	1,106	1,019	988	97.0
France, revised	62	49	61	66	63	95.3
Yugoslavia	32	32	32	30	32	106.0
Irish Free State	c/ 10	10	11	7	6	88.2
Russia	3,165	2,960	3,898	4,168	d/5,954	94.9
18 European countries	4,235	4,002	5,108	5,290	5,043	95.3
Egypt	4	3	4	4	2	50.0
Total above 25 countries	12,012	15,270	15,760	15,840	15,712	99.2
India	3,825	3,695	3,596	3,348		
Other countries e/ ...	33	69	85	63		
Estimated world total.	15,870	19,034	19,441	19,250		

Source: Official sources or International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Estimates for present territories.

b/ See Foreign Service Release, F.S./FF-16, November 25, 1927.

c/ Estimated.

d/ Unofficial trade figure.

e/ Partly estimated.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-13, annual 1924-27

Country a/	Average 1909-1913 b/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	31,547	22,424	19,335	26,583	137.5
Canada	12,040	9,695	9,297	5,948	4,735	79.6
Argentina	31,117	45,083	75,113	69,091	85,030	123.1
North and South America (3)	62,700	86,325	106,834	94,374	116,348	123.3
4 European countries previously reported c/	2,722	3,124	3,409	3,656	3,595	98.3
Lithuania (revised)	1,126	1,332	1,655	1,576	1,561	99.0
Estonia (revised)	733	460	489	475	409	86.1
Bulgaria (revised)	6	4	3	3	3	100.0
France	534	417	531	328	322	98.2
Rumania	707	223	331	244	236	96.7
Total 9 European countries	5,828	5,560	6,418	6,282	6,126	97.5
North Africa (2) c/	37	462	439	381	441	115.7
Total above 14 countries	68,565	92,347	113,691	101,037	122,915	121.7
India	20,578	20,040	16,030	16,280		
Russia	18,984	16,508	23,730	20,443		
Other countries d/	3,059	3,769	4,732	4,211		
Estimated world total.	111,186	132,664	158,233	141,971		

Source: Official sources or International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.
b/ Estimates for present territories.
c/ See Foreign Service Release, F.S./FF-16, November 25, 1927.
d/ Partly estimated.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-19

January 7, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAXSEED

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INDIAN FLAXSEED ACREAGE REDUCED

The acreage sown to flaxseed in India for the 1927-28 crop year as far as reported up to about the end of December is 2,574,000 acres or 94.1 per cent of the area reported up to the same date last year and 103.1 per cent of the average for the 5 preceding years, according to a cablegram to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. The final estimate for last year's acreage was 3,348,000 acres. As a rule the final estimate increases when the first one does and vice versa. In the past 20 years this has been true in all but four when the reverse held true. The percentage change in acreage shown from year to year in the first estimate, however, is not an accurate indication of the percentage change in the total finally reported area.

The first and final estimates of the flaxseed acreage in India during recent years are given below:

Year	1st estimate 1,000 acres	Final estimate 1,000 acres
1923-24	2,575	3,724
1924-25	2,845	3,695
1925-26	2,768	3,596
1926-27	2,734	3,348
1927-28	2,574	

Total production in 14 countries so far reporting in the current year, including the United States, Canada and Argentina, is estimated at 122,915,000 bushels, an increase of 22,000,000 bushels from production in those countries last year. Decreased supplies of old crop in Canada and Argentina bring the total supply down to 18,000,000 bushels above last year. India and Russia are the only important countries not yet reporting production.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-20

February 2, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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WORLD FLAXSEED SITUATION IN JANUARY 1928

The principal recent development affecting the world supply of flaxseed has been the reduction in the estimate of the Argentine crop. The world supply of flaxseed is now estimated at approximately 121,941,000 bushels, which is 14,000,000 or 13 per cent above the corresponding supply of 1926, according to information received in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This estimate is based on production in 15 countries reporting and stocks of old crop at the beginning of the season in the United States, Argentina and Canada. Production alone is 18,000,000 bushels higher. Earlier estimates had placed the increase in supply at 18,000,000 bushels and the production at 22,000,000 bushels above last year. Production estimates are still lacking for India and Russia, but early reports do not indicate any material increase in the total exportable surplus of those two countries. Prices of flaxseed in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires have shown a steady increase during the first three weeks of the present year after a period of weakness during the last quarter of 1927. The average price for the first three weeks in January 1928 was equal to the average January price for 1927 in Minneapolis, and well above the January 1927 price in Buenos Aires, but below the January 1927 price in Winnipeg.

Production

Flaxseed production for 15 countries including the United States, Canada and Argentina is now estimated at 119,862,000 bushels against 101,496,000 bushels reported by the same countries in 1926 or an increase of 18.1 per cent. The drop from the 122,915,000 bushels reported for 14 countries in the December estimate is due largely to a decrease of 3,814,000 bushels in the estimate of the new crop of Argentina where the crop is now placed at 81,216,000 bushels, and a decrease in production in Italy where the crop is estimated at 299,000 bushels compared with 459,000 bushels produced last year. The new estimate for Canada is 4,885,000 bushels or an increase of 150,000 bushels over the previous estimate. The countries reported so far produced 71.5 per cent of the 1926 estimated world total excluding China. Production estimates are still lacking for Russia and India. The area sown in Russia is now reported by the International Institute of Agriculture to be 4.4 per cent

above that of last year. Earlier reports had indicated a decrease for European Russia. The exportable surplus of this country in recent years has been too small to materially affect the world situation. The first estimate for India shows the area sown to December to be 5.9 per cent below the area sown at the corresponding date last year. In general, a decrease in the first estimate is followed by a decrease in the final report of area sown, although exceptions have occurred. The yield per acre in India last year was well below the average, and an average yield per acre this year would result in a crop equal to that of last year in spite of the probable decrease in acreage. Production in Europe other than Russia is about equal to that of last year. The total acreage reported for 25 countries, which includes all important countries except India, was 1.8 per cent above the area reported for the same countries last year. Tables on pages 5 and 6 show estimates of area and production for countries reporting in 1927.

Stocks

Argentina carryover is still believed to be negligible compared with 3,457,000 bushels on January 1, 1927. The exportable surplus on December 1 was 2,827,000 bushels, according to an unofficial estimate reported by Consul General Lay at Buenos Aires, while exports from December 3 to December 31 are placed by the trade at about 3,953,000 bushels.

Stocks in North America on January 20 were about 941,000 bushels above those of the same time in 1927. Commercial stocks in the United States for the third week of January were 3,838,000 bushels, or considerably above the 2,570,000 bushels reported at the corresponding time last year. This does not indicate a piling up of stocks, since the excess of stocks over last year has been reduced from 3,595,000 bushels at the peak of the season, which occurred during the second week of November, to the present excess of only 1,268,000 bushels. This indicates a good movement into consuming channels. In Canada stocks in store in the Western Grain Division were below those of 1927, the amount reported being 2,936,000 bushels compared with 3,263,000 bushels for the third week in January 1927, according to the Board of Grain Commissioners.

Exports and Imports

Imports of flaxseed into the United States for the first four months, September through December of the present season, were only 5,994,000 bushels compared with 8,267,000 bushels during the corresponding period of 1926, or a decrease of 2,273,000 bushels. Shipments of flaxseed from Russia to other countries January through December 1927 are reported by the trade to have been only 110,000 bushels compared

with shipments of 2,216,000 bushels during 1926. Shipments from India January through December 1927 are reported by the trade at 7,702,000 bushels compared with 6,815,000 for 1926. The official figure for 1926 shipments from India is 7,455,000 bushels. Exports from Argentina for the year 1927 amounted to 76,600,000 bushels, according to a trade source. The official figure for 1926 was 65,866,000 bushels. The 1927 export figure is above the indicated supply for the year, which amounted to 72,548,000 bushels, obtained by adding the official carryover estimate of 3,457,000 bushels to the crop of 69,091,000 bushels, and making no allowance for home consumption and seed.

Prices

Prices in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires , which had declined generally since September, rallied early in January and since that time show a steady upward trend. The upward tendency has been more noticeable in Minneapolis than in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires and the margin of Minneapolis prices over those of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires is considerably higher than during the latter part of 1927. Last year flaxseed prices declined in January but rallied in February and continued an upward trend in the important markets for several months. The average price for the first three weeks of January 1928 was equal to the average January price for 1927 in Minneapolis but below the 1927 price in Winnipeg and well above the January 1927 price in Buenos Aires. The following table gives weekly average prices per bushel of flaxseed in Winnipeg, Minneapolis and Buenos Aires from September 1927 to January 1928. For monthly average prices in four important markets 1924-25 to 1927-28 see Foreign Service release, FF-16, November 25, 1927.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average prices per bushel in specified markets September 1927 to January 1928, in dollars per bushel of 56 pounds

Month and week	Winnipeg	Minneapolis	Buenos Aires	Margins of Minneapolis price over	
	No. 1 N.W.C.	No. 1 N.W.C.	4% early delivery	Winnipeg	Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
September -					
1st	1.94	2.20	a/ 1.70	26	50
2nd	1.95	2.21	1.72	26	49
3rd	1.98	2.25	1.73	27	52
4th	1.94	2.19	1.69	25	50
October -					
1st	1.92	2.19	1.67	27	52
2nd	1.92	2.18	1.67	26	51
3rd	1.86	2.11	b/ 1.67	25	44
4th	1.82	2.08	1.63	26	45
November -					
1st	1.81	2.07	1.59	26	48
2nd	1.86	2.13	1.60	27	53
3rd	1.84	2.17	1.59	33	58
4th	1.83	2.16	1.58	33	58
December -					
1st	1.82	2.14	1.58	32	56
2nd	1.81	2.14	1.57	33	57
3rd	1.80	2.16	1.58	36	58
4th	1.79	2.14	1.57	35	57
5th	1.79	2.16	1.57	37	59
January -					
1st	1.81	2.18	1.60	37	58
2nd	1.83	2.24	1.61	41	63
3rd	1.84	2.28	1.65	44	63

Compiled from: Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by car lot sales compiled from Minneapolis Daily Market Record. Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York Journal of Commerce. Buenos Aires: New York Journal of Commerce.

a/ Quotation published for September 9 excluded from average due to great fluctuation. Quotation increased from 1.72 on September 8 to 2.05 on September 9, and returned to 1.73 on September 10.

b/ Quotation published for October 18 excluded from average due to great fluctuation. Quotation decreased from 1.68 on October 17 to 1.31 on October 18, and returned to 1.68 on October 19.

FLAXSEED: Acreage in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-13, annual 1924-1927

Country	Average 1909-1913 a/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
United States	2,490	3,469	3,078	2,907	2,907	100.0
Canada	1,035	1,277	1,128	738	476	64.5
Argentina	4,113	6,322	6,201	6,672	7,055	105.7
3 other seed producing countries b/	134	197	241	228	229	100.4
Total countries producing seed only	7,772	11,265	10,648	10,545	10,667	101.1
15 European countries previously reported b/	956	940	1,096	1,017	1,010	99.3
Italy, revised	43	51	52	55	43	78.2
Rumania, revised	71	51	62	51	49	96.1
Russia, revised	3,165	2,960	3,898	4,167	4,351	104.4
18 European countries	4,235	4,002	5,108	5,290	5,453	103.1
Egypt	5	3	4	4	2	50.0
Total above 25 countries	12,012	15,270	15,760	15,839	16,122	101.8
India, 1st estimate	2,948	2,845	2,768	2,734	2,574	94.1
final estimate	3,825	3,695	3,596	3,348		
Other countries c/	32	69	85	62		
Estimated world total	15,870	19,034	19,441	19,250		

Official sources or International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Estimates for present territories.

b/ See Foreign Service Releases F.S./FF-16, November 25, 1927, and F.S./FF-18 January 3, 1928.

c/ Partly estimated.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country a/	Average 1909-1913 b/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	31,547	22,424	19,335	26,583	137.5
Canada	12,040	9,695	9,297	5,948	4,885	82.1
Argentina	31,117	45,083	75,113	69,091	81,216	117.5
North and South America (3)	62,700	86,325	106,834	94,374	112,684	119.4
7 European countries previously reported c/	3,418	3,097	3,647	3,224	3,174	98.4
Italy (new)	340	422	504	459	299	65.1
Rumania (revised)	707	223	331	244	233	95.5
Poland (revised)	1,703	2,240	2,441	2,814	3.031	107.7
Total 10 European countries	6,168	5,981	6,923	6,741	6,737	99.9
North Africa (2) c/	37	462	439	381	441	115.7
Total above 15 countries	68,905	92,768	114,196	101,496	119,862	118.1
India	20,578	20,040	16,080	16,280		
Russia	18,984	16,508	23,730	20,472		
Other countries d/	2,719	3,348	4,227	3,752		
Estimated world total	111,186	132,664	158,233	142,000		

Official sources or International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

b/ Estimates for present territories.

c/ See Foreign Service releases F.S./FF-16, November 25, 1927, and F.S./FF-18, January 3, 1928.

d/ Partly estimated.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-21

February 16, 1928.

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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INCREASE IN RUSSIAN FLAX AND HEMPSEED PRODUCTION

Flaxseed production in Russia for 1927 is estimated at 23,621,000 bushels, according to a cable to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. This is an increase of 15.4 per cent above last year's crop. The 1927 total production of flaxseed for 16 countries so far reported is 143,483,000 bushels, or 17.6 per cent above the production of 121,968,000 bushels by the same countries in 1926. Production estimates for other countries are given in Foreign Service release, FF-20.

Although Russia is one of the world's most important flaxseed producing countries, most of the crop is consumed within the country and the exportable surplus in recent years has been too small to materially affect the world situation. Shipments of flaxseed from Russia to other countries during 1927 were reported by the trade to have been only 110,000 bushels compared with 2,215,000 bushels shipped during 1926. No shipments have been reported for 1928.

Production of hempseed in Russia for the 1927 season was estimated at 30,063,000 bushels, according to the International Institute of Agriculture. In 1926 production was 25,166,000 bushels. Russia is the world's principal grower of hempseed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-22

March 13, 1928.

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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THE FLAXSEED SITUATION IN FEBRUARY 1928

In January and February the margin of Minneapolis flaxseed prices over Buenos Aires was smaller than in the same months in any of the preceding five years, notwithstanding the fact that some seasonal increase in the margin occurred. The margin is usually greatest in the period January to March, when the Argentine crop is coming on the market. The present relatively low margin has followed heavier stocks in the United States early this season as compared with last. United States imports for the first five months have decreased. The heavy supplies in the United States have been moving rapidly into consuming channels, however, and are now only 1,000,000 bushels greater than at this time last year. The decrease of 3,329,000 bushels in our imports for the first five months of the season is nearly half as great as the increase of 7,248,000 bushels in our crop this year. The margin of the Minneapolis price over Winnipeg is greater than it has been in January and February of the past two years. The indicated world supply exclusive of India and minor producing countries is now 146,218,000 bushels compared with 129,053,000 bushels last year. The increase of 3,149,000 bushels reported in Russian flaxseed production compared with last year has had little effect on the situation outside of that country. Exports of the four principal exporting countries so far as reported since September 1 have amounted to 39,192,000 bushels compared with 28,506,000 for the corresponding period last year.

Production

Flaxseed production for 17 countries which include all important producers except India is now estimated at 144,139,000 bushels compared with 122,986,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1926, or an increase of 17.2 per cent. Last year they produced 86.6 per cent of the total world crop excluding China. The estimate for Russia, recently received, is 23,621,000 bushels compared with 20,472,000 bushels produced in 1926, or an increase of 15.4 per cent. In Latvia, however, production has dropped to 655,000 bushels from 971,000 produced in 1926. The increase in the Russian production brings the production of Europe to 10 per cent above that reported last year. A recent trade report states that weather throughout India is unusually wet for February and some damage to oilseeds by hail and rust is reported in the Central and United Provinces. No estimate of production is expected for India until June. No revision of the estimate for the Argentine record crop has been received, although according to a trade report the quality is believed to be a little poorer than last year's crop. Tables on page 3 show estimates of area and production for countries reporting in 1927.

Stocks

No report of carryover of old crop on January 1 in Argentina is available as yet, but since exports reported for the year are above the reported production, carryover is still believed to be negligible compared with 3,457,000 bushels on January 1, 1927.

Stocks in North America on February 17 were about 609,000 bushels above those at the same time in 1927. Commercial stocks in the United States the third week in February were 3,100,000 bushels compared with 2,111,000 bushels at the same time last year. In the United States the crop has been moving rapidly into consuming channels. In November, commercial stocks were 3,395,000 bushels greater than last year, which is nearly half as large as the total increase in crop, but by the third week in February they had fallen to a point only 989,000 bushels greater than at that time last year. In Canada, stocks in store in the Western Grain Division were below those of 1927, the amount reported for the third week of February being 3,037,000 bushels compared with 3,417,000 at the same time last year, according to the Board of Grain Commissioners. See table on page 4.

Exports and imports

Exports from September 1 so far reported for four important countries are above those for the corresponding period last season. Argentine exports from September 1, 1927 to February 11, 1928 amounted to 34,893,000 bushels, according to combined official and trade figures, while the corresponding exports last season were 23,099,000 bushels. India shows an increase of 289,000 bushels during the same period, but exports from Russia and Canada are considerably below last season. Imports into the United States for the first five months, September through January, of the present season were 7,175,000 bushels compared with 10,504,000 during the corresponding period last year. This decrease is nearly half as great as the increase in our crop. A slight increase is shown in the flaxseed imports of the United Kingdom during the first five months of the season. The table on page 4 gives figures for the current season with those of earlier years for comparison.

Prices

Flaxseed prices in Minneapolis, which during October and November had reached their lowest point since January 1922, continued their January rally and in February increased steadily, reaching in that month their highest monthly average since September 1926, with the exception of May 1927. In Winnipeg and Buenos Aires, prices remained steady during February. The February price in Buenos Aires was above the average price in February 1927, but the price in Winnipeg was below that of last year. Although the Minneapolis price in February was slightly higher than in February last year, the Buenos Aires price showed a larger increase as between these months and as a result the margin of the Minneapolis price over the Buenos Aires price was considerably smaller than in February 1927. See tables on pages 5 and 6.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country a/	Average 1909-1913 b/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	31,547	22,424	19,335	26,583	137.5
Canada	12,040	9,695	9,297	5,995	4,885	81.5
Argentina	31,117	45,084	75,113	69,091	81,216	117.5
North and South America(3)	62,700	86,326	106,834	94,421	112,684	119.3
European countries previously reported (10)	6,168	5,983	6,922	6,741	6,744	100.0
Russia, new	18,984	16,508	23,730	20,472	23,621	115.4
Latvia, new	953	980	1,099	971	655	67.5
Europe (12)	26,105	23,471	31,751	28,184	31,020	110.1
Morocco	(0)	445	402	344	394	114.5
Tunis	37	17	37	37	41	110.8
Total above 17 countries.	88,842	110,259	139,024	122,986	144,139	117.2
India	20,573	20,040	16,080	16,280		
Other countries c/	1,767	2,368	3,129	2,781		
Estimated world total	111,187	132,667	158,233	142,047		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture. a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included. b/ Estimates for present boundaries. c/ Partly estimated.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country	Average 1909-1913 a/	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
United States	2,490	3,469	3,078	2,907	2,907	100.0
Canada	1,035	1,277	1,128	738	476	64.5
Argentina	4,113	6,322	6,201	6,672	7,055	105.7
3 other seed producing countries b/	134	197	241	228	230	100.9
Total countries producing seed only	7,772	11,265	10,648	10,545	10,668	101.2
Russia	3,165	2,960	3,898	4,167	4,351	104.4
17 other European countries.	1,070	1,042	1,210	1,122	1,102	98.2
18 European countries	4,235	4,002	5,108	5,289	5,453	103.1
Egypt	5	3	4	4	2	50.0
Total above 25 countries.	12,012	15,270	15,760	15,839	16,122	101.8
India, 1st estimate	2,948	2,845	2,763	2,734	2,574	94.1
final estimate	3,325	3,695	3,596	3,348		
Other countries c/	33	69	85	63		
Estimated world total	15,870	19,034	19,441	19,250		

Official sources or International Institute of Agriculture. a/ Estimates for present boundaries. b/ See Foreign Service releases, F.S./FF-16, 18 and 20. c/ Partly estimated.

FLAXSEED: Stocks in the United States and Canada at specified times, 1926-27 and 1927-28

Month and week	United States a/		Canada b/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
September c/ -				
1st week	584	583	2,026	1,496
November -				
2d week d/	3,764	7,159	2,372	2,115
January -				
1st week	2,684	4,051	3,243	2,831
February -				
3d week	2,111	3,100	3,417	3,037

a/ Commercial stocks in store in principal United States markets. b/ Stocks in store in Canadian Western Grain Division. c/ Beginning of season. d/ Peak of holdings in United States.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1927-28

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1			Amount reported		
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Sept. 1 to	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Exports -						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	Feb. 11 a/	23,099	34,893
India	16,908	7,426	8,360	Feb. 11 b/	3,402	3,691
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	Dec. 31	1,279	525
Russia c/	618	1,190	811	Feb. 11	726	83
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045		28,506	39,192
Imports -						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,662	Jan. 31	10,504	7,175
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	Jan. 31	4,750	4,842
Total above imports	26,113	34,923	38,919		15,254	12,017

EXPORTS FROM ARGENTINA AND INDIA IN THEIR CURRENT SEASON

Country	1925	1926	1927	Jan. 1 to	1927	1928
Argentina d/	37,821	65,866	e/73,992	Feb. 11 c/	8,932	11,972
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	April 1 to	1926-27	1927-28
India f/	14,842	12,326	7,675	Feb. 11 b/	6,996	7,970

a/ Official figures September and October; trade figures November to date. b/ Official figures through November; trade figures December to date. c/ Trade figures. d/ Export year beginning January 1. e/ Official figures January-October; trade figures for November and December. f/ Export year beginning April 1.

FLAXSEED: Monthly average prices per bushel in specified markets, September 1924 to December 1927
(In dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Year and month	Minneapolis No. 1, N.W.C.	Winnipeg No. 1, N.W.C.	Buenos Aires 4 per cent	Bombay Bold	Margins of Minneapolis price over Winnipeg	Margins of Minneapolis price over Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
1924-25 -						
September ...	2.26	2.20	1.99	2.22	6	27
October	2.40	2.33	2.12	2.40	7	28
November	2.58	2.35	2.21	2.45	23	37
December	2.84	2.48	2.26	2.46	36	58
January	3.15	2.68	2.44	2.56	47	71
February	3.12	2.63	2.41	2.65	49	71
March	2.97	2.50	2.25	2.50	47	72
April	2.79	2.35	2.09	2.37	44	70
May	2.80	2.44	2.14	2.42	36	66
June	2.68	2.37	2.11	2.44	31	57
July	2.49	2.22	2.02	2.41	27	47
August	2.54	2.40	2.12	2.44	14	42
1925-26 -						
September ...	2.59	2.37	2.06	2.41	22	53
October	2.58	2.33	1.94	2.28	25	64
November	2.56	2.29	1.94	2.24	27	62
December	2.61	2.26	1.83	2.20	35	78
January	2.50	2.14	1.67	2.01	36	83
February	2.43	2.05	1.61	2.02	38	82
March	2.32	1.92	1.51	1.90	40	81
April	2.34	1.96	1.55	1.87	38	79
May	2.30	1.93	1.55	1.87	37	75
June	2.33	1.95	1.66	1.95	38	67
July	2.44	2.08	1.78	2.03	36	66
August	2.38	2.11	1.77	1.97	27	61
1926-27 -						
September ...	2.33	2.05	1.64	1.84	28	69
October	2.21	1.94	1.59	1.89	27	62
November	2.22	1.91	1.53	1.90	31	69
December	2.24	1.88	1.53	1.89	36	71
January	2.23	1.87	1.50	1.92	36	73
February	2.25	1.90	1.54	1.98	35	71
March	2.22	1.90	1.52	1.99	32	70
April	2.24	1.92	1.58	1.92	32	66
May	2.34	2.00	1.70	2.01	34	64
June	2.25	1.99	1.71	2.01	26	54
July	2.23	1.95	1.68	1.99	28	55
August	2.22	2.01	1.69	1.92	21	53
1927-28 -						
September ...	2.21	1.95	1.69	1.91	26	52
October	2.13	1.88	1.65	1.85	25	48
November	2.13	1.83	1.58	a/ 1.87	30	55
December	2.15	1.80	1.58	1.89	35	57

See next page for sources.

a/ Three week average only.

FLAXSEED: Monthly average prices per bushel in specified markets, September 1924 to December 1927 - continued

Compiled from the following reports:- Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by car lot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canada "Monthly Bulletin of Agricultural Statistics" and Board of Trade Commissioners Movement of Western Canadian Grain Crops. Buenos Aires: "International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics" and "Review of the River Plate". Bombay: "International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics" and "Indian Trade Journal".

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928 (In dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Month and week	Winnipeg No. 1, N.W.C.	Minneapolis No. 1, N.W.C.	Buenos Aires 4% early delivery	Margins of Minneapolis price over Winnipeg	Margins of Minneapolis price over Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
January -					
1st week	1.81	2.18	1.60	37	58
2d week	1.83	2.24	1.61	41	63
3d week	1.84	2.28	1.65	44	63
4th week	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February -					
1st week	1.83	2.25	1.62	42	63
2d week	1.83	2.26	1.63	43	63
3d week	1.83	2.27	1.61	44	66

Compiled from - Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by car lot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York "Journal of Commerce". Buenos Aires: New York "Journal of Commerce".

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-23

April 13, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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THE FLAXSEED SITUATION IN MARCH, 1928

Flaxseed prices in three important markets continued their steady upward trend during the first four weeks of March and although they weakened slightly the end of the month were generally above the corresponding prices of last year, according to statistics compiled by the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Although the margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Buenos Aires increased during March, it is still below the corresponding margin for the past few years, while the margin of Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg continued higher in March 1928 than in March 1927 and 1926.

Stocks in the United States continue to move rapidly into consuming channels and by the fourth week of March the excess over last year had been reduced to 379,000 bushels. Imports into the United States from September 1 to February 29 of this season amounted to only 8,439,000 bushels compared with 11,831,000 during the same time last season. Exports from Argentina and India continue high. The total exports of the four principal exporting countries from September 1 to March 17 were estimated at 49,572,000 bushels, or 9,618,000 bushels above exports during the same time last season. No important change has been reported in the world supply estimate since the February report. (Foreign Service Release, FF-22)

Production

Flaxseed production for 18 countries, which in 1926 produced 88 per cent of the estimated world total exclusive of China, is now estimated at 146,186,000 bushels or 17 per cent above the 124,954,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1926. The only country reporting since last month's survey is Uruguay, where production for 1927 is placed at 2,947,000 bushels compared with a 1926 crop of 1,970,000 bushels. No revision of the acreage sown in India has been received. At the time of the first estimate the acreage was 5.9 per cent below the area sown at the corresponding time last year. The condition of the India crop is favorable. In Bihar and Orissa the crop was doing well according to last reports, and in the Central Provinces the condition of the crop was good except for some damage by pests. These districts are the most important in the flax production of India. The acreage reported for 25 countries is 1.8 per cent above that of the same countries in 1926. Acreage and production totals for 1927 with earlier years for comparison are shown in the first table on page 3.

The crop of the United States continued to move rapidly into consuming channels during March and commercial stocks are now only 379,000 bushels greater than at this time last year. The excess over last year during the second week in November when the peak of holdings in the United States occurred was 3,395,000 bushels. Stocks in the Western Grain Division of Canada are still below those of the corresponding time last year. The deficit of 524,000 bushels in the stocks of Canada as compared with last year is greater than the excess of 379,000 bushels in the United States and total stocks in North America the fourth week of March were 145,000 bushels below those of the same time last year. No estimate of the Argentine carryover on January 1 has been received and no satisfactory indication of present stocks is available. See table, page 4.

Exports and Imports

Total exports from four important countries from September 1, 1927 to March 17, 1928 were estimated at 49,572,000 bushels compared with 39,954,000 bushels last year. Argentina exports during this period amounted to 44,717,000 bushels compared with 34,096,000 last year, according to official and trade figures. Exports from India were also well above last year while Canada and Russia show large decreases. Total imports into the United States and the United Kingdom from September 1, 1927 to February 29, 1928 were below those of last year, due to the large decrease in United States imports. Imports into the United States during the period were 8,439,000 bushels compared with 11,831,000 bushels during the same months last year. The demand during February, however, showed improvement and imports for that month were only 63,000 bushels below the imports of February 1927, compared with a decrease of 1,056,000 in January. Imports into the United Kingdom during February were 1,163,640 bushels compared with 848,200 during the preceding month and 788,840 bushels in February 1927. Total imports into the United Kingdom for the season through February were 6,005,000 bushels, which is 466,000 greater than for that period last year. The table on page 4 gives figures for the current season with those of earlier years for comparison.

Prices

Flaxseed prices in three important markets continued their steady upward trend during the first four weeks of March, but weakened slightly the end of the month. The average price for March 1928 was well above the March 1927 average in Minneapolis and Buenos Aires and was equal to the March 1927 price in Winnipeg. The margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Buenos Aires, although it has continued to increase, still remains below the corresponding margin during the last few years while the margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg is greater than the margin of March 1926 and 1927. See table, page 3 for weekly average prices from January through March 1928. For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service Release FF-22, March 13, 1928.

FLAX: Acreage and production in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
ACREAGE	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acfes	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cen
Countries producing seed only (6)	7,772	11,265	10,362	10,545	10,668	101.2
Countries producing seed and fiber (19)	4,240	4,005	5,112	5,294	5,454	103.0
Total reported (25)	12,012	15,270	15,474	15,839	16,122	101.8
Estimated world total	15,870	19,034	19,155	19,250		
PRODUCTION	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per ce
Uruguay	951	1,542	2,029	1,970	2,047	103.9
Other North and South American (3)	62,700	86,325	113,071	94,421	112,684	119.3
Other countries (14)	26,142	23,934	22,894	28,563	31,455	110.[illegible]
Total reported (18)	89,793	111,801	137,994	124,954	146,186	11[illegible]
Estimated world total	111,187	152,667	155,174	142,035		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture. a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included. For figures for important countries see Foreign Service Release, FF-22, March 13, 1928.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928 (In dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Month and week	Winnipeg No. 1 N.W.C	Minneapolis No. 1, N.W.C.	Buenos Aires 4% early delivery	Margin of Minneapolis price over Winnipeg	Margin of Minneapolis price over Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
January-					
1st week	1.81	2.18	1.60	37	58
2nd week	1.83	2.24	1.61	41	63
3rd week	1.84	2.28	1.65	44	63
4th week	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February-					
1st week	1.83	2.25	1.62	42	63
2nd week	1.83	2.26	1.63	43	63
3rd week	1.83	2.27	1.61	44	66
4th week	1.85	2.27	1.62	42	65
March-					
1st week	1.86	2.28	1.61	42	67
2nd week	1.88	2.30	1.63	42	67
3rd week	1.92	2.33	1.66	41	67
4th week	1.93	2.37	1.68	44	69
5th week	1.91	2.34	1.68	43	66

Compiled from Minneapolis: Averages of daily prices weighted by carlot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York "Journal of Commerce". Buenos Aires: New York "Journal of Commerce". For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December

FLAXSEED: Stocks in the United States and Canada at specified times 1926-27 and 1927-28

Month and week	United States a/		Canada b/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
September-				
1st week c/	584	583	2,026	1,496
November-				
2nd week d/	3,764	7,159	2,372	2,115
January-				
1st week	2,684	4,051	3,243	2,831
March-				
4th week	2,026	2,405	3,485	2,961

a/ Commercial stocks in store in principal United States markets. b/ Stocks in store in Canadian Western Grain Division. c/ Beginning of season. d/ Peak of holdings in United States.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1927-28

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1			Amount reported		
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Sept.1 to	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Exports-						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	March 17a/	34,096	44,717
India	16,908	7,426	8,360	Mar.17 b/	3,836	4,247
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	Feb.29	1,286	525
Russia and Danube c/	618	1,190	811	March 17	736	83
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045		39,954	49,572
Imports-						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,662	Feb. 29	11,831	8,439
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	Feb. 29	5,539	6,005
Total above imports	26,113	34,923	38,919		17,370	14,444

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their current season

Country	1925	1926	1927	Jan.1 to	1927	1928
Argentina..d/.....	37,821	65,866	e/73,560	March 17c/	19,709	22,227
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Apr.1 to	1926-27	1927-28
India f/	14,842	12,326	7,675	March 17b/	7,430	8,525

a/ Official figures September-November; trade figures December to date. b/ Official figures through December; trade figures January 1 to date. c/ Trade figures. d/ Export year beginning January 1. e/ Official figures January-November; trade figures for December. f/ Export year beginning April 1.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-24

April 24, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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ARGENTINE FLAXSEED CROP AND APRIL ESTIMATE OF EXPORTABLE SURPLUS

The exportable surplus of Argentine flaxseed on April 12 was only 4,134,000 bushels above the surplus at the same time last year, while production for the season is estimated to be 10,353,000 bushels higher, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture giving official estimates. Exports from Argentina continue greater than those of the past two years although prices are higher than in 1926 and 1927.

The final estimate of Argentine flaxseed production is 79,444,000 bushels. Although this is below the earlier estimates of 85,030,000 and 81,216,000 bushels it is 15 per cent above last year's crop of 69,091,000 bushels and still constitutes a record crop, the previous record being the crop of 1925-26 when 75,113,000 bushels were produced. The production for 18 countries reported, which includes all important producers except India, is now 144,414,000 bushels compared with 124,954,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1926 and 137,994,000 in 1925. The official estimate of the India crop is not expected until June, but according to a trade report the crop promises to be slightly larger than last year.

The official estimate of exportable surplus of Argentine flaxseed according to the cable of April 19 was 42,793,000 bushels compared with a surplus of 38,659,000 bushels on April 12, 1927 and 47,163,000 bushels on April 9, 1926, the year of the former record crop. Exports from January 1 to March 31, 1928 amounted to 25,814,000 bushels compared with 23,514,000 bushels to April 2 last year, according to a trade journal. Official figures of exports for the first three months of 1927 were 22,053,000 bushels and for 1926 were 20,503,000 bushels. Exports have thus been moving out rapidly so that the surplus although above that of the same time last year is below the surplus of April 9, 1926 when the production for the year was 4,331,000 bushels less.

Exports from Argentina to the United States for the first three months of 1928 were approximately 1 million bushels below those of the same time last year and shipments to the United Kingdom were approximately 550,000 bushels lower, according to trade statistics. However, these decreases were more than offset by increased shipments to the Continent of Europe and by shipments on order. Comparative figures on Argentina flaxseed distribution are shown on the following page.

Prices of flaxseed in Buenos Aires rose steadily during March and maintained a weekly average of $1.68 per bushel from the fourth week of March through the second week of April in spite of a record production this season. The average price for April 1927 was $1.58 per bushel and for 1926 was $1.55 per bushel. The margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Buenos Aires is below the corresponding margin of the last two years.

FLAXSEED: Crop distribution in Argentina on April 12 for the years 1926-1928

Item	1926	1927	1928
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Carryover, January 1	1,626	3,457	a/
Production	75,113	69,091	79,444
Home consumption and seed	7,480	7,480	b/ 7,480
Exports to March 31	20,503	22,053	c/ 25,814
Exportable surplus, April 12	47,163	38,659	42,793

Official sources except as otherwise noted.

a/ No official estimate of carryover has been received. Since reports for 1927 exceeded production and carryover, the carryover for 1928 is believed to have been negligible.

b/ Assumed to be equal to last year.

c/ Trade figure. The corresponding trade figure for 1927 was 23,514,000 bushels.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

June 11, 1928

F.S.
FF-25

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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FLAXSEED SITUATION IN MAY, 1928

The production of flaxseed in 1927 in 19 countries, which in 1926 accounted for 99 per cent of the estimated world total exclusive of China, is estimated at 158,421,000 bushels or 12.2 per cent above the 141,234,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1926, according to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The total cited includes all of the important producing countries. The last country to report was India where, due to unfavorable weather, production dropped 13.7 per cent for 1927-28 as against 1926-27.

Flaxseed stocks in the United States have moved rapidly into consuming channels during the past few months and on May 26 were 21.7 per cent below those of that time last year, notwithstanding the increased supply of flaxseed available for export in Argentina. Prices increased in May in Buenos Aires, Winnipeg and Minneapolis, continuing the upward movement which has prevailed since November, in the face of decreased prices for linseed oil in the United States. An important factor in the strong market for seed is the continental European demand for oil meal for livestock feeding. The Argentine flaxseed exports to continental Europe are larger than usual and at higher prices.

United States imports in the present season have been smaller than last season, amounting to only 11,808,000 bushels for the period September 1 to April 30 of this season compared with 16,288,000 bushels during the same period last season. Imports into the United Kingdom up to April were below the previous season, but figures for that month brought the total imports from September to April 30 up to 9,474,000 bushels compared with 9,143,000 bushels for the same months last season. Continental European imports are well above last season. Total exports from four principal exporting countries are above those of recent years, amounting to 62,820,000 bushels from September 1 through May 19 compared with 57,672,000 bushels during the same time last year. Canadian exports, which are included in the foregoing totals, are reported only to April 30.

Production

Of the five leading flaxseed producing countries, increases in the 1927 crops compared with those of 1926 were reported for Argentina, United States and Russia while Canada and India reported decreases. Acreage and production totals for 1927 with earlier years for comparison are shown in the table on page 4. Production of flaxseed in India for the 1927-28

season is officially estimated at 14,054,000 bushels, according to a cable to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from the International Institute of Agriculture, against the final estimate of 1926-27 when 16,280,000 bushels were produced. Early reports for the present season were favorable and an early trade estimate had placed the crop above that of last year. Weather during the latter part of April was unfavorable, however, and heavy damage which was reported for some districts reduced the yield considerably. The final estimate of the Argentine crop is 79,444,000 bushels compared with the earlier estimate of 81,216,000 bushels and a 1926 crop of 69,091,000 bushels. (See Foreigh Service release, FF-24, April 24, 1928.) The 1927 crop of Czechoslovakia is now placed at 371,000 bushels compared with 331,000 in 1926.

Stocks

Commercial stocks in the United States as of May 26, 1928 are 1,093,000 bushels, or 303,000 bushels below stocks at the same time last year, although in November 1927, when the peak of holdings for this season in the United States was reached, these stocks were 3,395,000 bushels above those of 1926. Stocks in the Western Grain Division of Canada are also below those of 1927, which placed the commercial stocks reported in North America the fourth week in May at 3,402,000 bushels, or 673,000 bushels below those of the same time last year. See table, page 4. The exportable surplus of flaxseed in Argentina was officially estimated on April 19 at 42,793,000 bushels, compared with the estimate of 38,659,000 bushels on April 12, 1927. Subtracting from these estimates the trade estimates of exports to May 19, there remained on May 19 a surplus of about 37,878,000 bushels, compared with 28,298,000 bushels remaining at the corresponding time last year. See table, page 4.

Exports and imports

Exports so far as reported for the four chief exporting countries from September 1 to May 19 were 8.9 per cent larger than during the same period last year. Argentina exported 56,951,000 bushels during this period this year compared with 50,290,000 bushels during the corresponding period last year. Since the beginning of the current season on January 1, however, Argentine exports have been slightly below those of last season, amounting to 34,098,000 bushels compared with 35,426,000 bushels from January 1 to May 21, 1927. Exports from India were above those of last season from September 1 to April 1, but have declined since the beginning of the India season on April 1, and from April 1 to May 19 were 671,000 bushels compared with 937,000 bushels during the same time last year. Canada and Russia show decreased exports from September 1 into May compared with those of last season.

Imports into the United States and the United Kingdom from September 1 to April 30, 1928 were 21,282,000 bushels compared with imports of 25,431,000 bushels during the same time last year. The decrease is due to decreased imports into the United States which were 29.8 per cent under those of the same months last year. Imports into the United Kingdom from September 1 through April were 3.6 per cent larger than during that period last season. Large increases in the imports into countries of continental Europe have offset the decrease in United States imports. Total flaxseed imports into Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and France from September 1, 1927 as far as reported to date amounted to 28,036,000 bushels compared with imports of 17,494,000 bushels during the same period last year. See table, page 5.

Prices

Flaxseed prices in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires, three important markets, advanced considerably during April and May 1928. The average for the first four weeks of May was above the May average of the two preceding years, with the exception of the Winnipeg price in 1927, which equaled the present average. The average of $2.46 per bushel in Minneapolis for the first four weeks of May 1928 is higher than any monthly average at Minneapolis since January 1926. The margin of Minneapolis price over that of Buenos Aires since the beginning of the season in September, which had remained below the corresponding margin of recent years, reached a level in May higher than any margin since May 1926 with the exception of January 1927, when the margin equaled the present one.

The May 1928 margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg is the highest reached since March 1926. See table, page 6, for weekly average prices January through May 1928. For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service release, FF-22, March 13, 1928.

FLAX: Acreage and seed production in countries reporting for 1927, acerage 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1925	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
ACREAGE	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
Coun.producing seed only (6)	7,772	11,265	10,362	10,545	10,668	101.2
Countries producing seed and fiber, (19)	4,240	4,005	5,112	5,294	5,454	103.0
Total reported (25)	12,012	15,270	15,474	15,839	16,122	101.8
India, 2nd estimate	3,229	3,019	2,918	2,723	2,649	97.3
India, final estimate	3,825	3,695	3,596	3,348		
Estimated world total	15,870	19,034	19,155	19,250		
SEED PRODUCTION	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
Argentina, revised	31,117	45,084	75,113	69,091	79,444	115.0
Other N.and S.America, (3)	32,534	42,783	39,987	27,300	33,515	122.8
India	20,578	20,040	16,080	16,280	14,054	86.3
Czechoslofakia, revised	435	356	416	331	371	112.1
Other countries (13)	25,707	23,578	22,478	28,232	31,037	109.9
Total reported (19)	110,371	131,841	154,074	141,234	158,421	112.2
Estimated world total	111,187	132,667	155,174	142,035		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

FLAXSEED: Stocks in the United States and Canada at specified times in 1927-28 and corresponding dates in 1926-27

Month and week	United States a/ 1926-27	United States a/ 1927-28	Canada b/ 1926-27	Canada b/ 1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
September, 1st week c/	584	583	2,026	1,496
November, 2nd week d/	3,764	7,159	2,372	2,115
January, 1st week	2,684	4,051	3,243	2,831
April, 4th week	1,834	1,691	3,005	2,809
May, 4th week	1,396	1,093	2,679	2,309

a/ Commercial stocks in store in principal United States markets for week ending Saturday. b/ Stocks in store in Canadian Western Grain Division on Friday of week noted. c/ Beginning of season. d/ Peak of holdings in United States.

FLAXSEED: Exportable surplus and exports from Argentina for the current season beginning January 1, 1927 and 1928

Year	Exports a/ Jan. 1 to	Exports a/ 1,000 bu.	Exportable surplus a/ Date	Exportable surplus a/ 1,000 bu.	Exports to May 19 b/ From	Exports to May 19 b/ 1,000 bu.
1927	April 11	26,417	April 12	38,659	April 12	11,361
1928	April 18	29,183	April 19	42,793	April 19	4,915

a/ Official estimates. b/ Trade estimates.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1927-28

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1			Trade in current season to dates indicated, with comparisons		
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Sept.1 to	1926-27	1927-28
EXPORTS	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	May 19	a/50,290	b/56,951
India	16,908	7,426	8,360	May 19 c/	5,060	5,258
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	April 30	1,511	628
Russia and Danube d/	618	1,190	811	May 19	811	83
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045		57,672	62,820
IMPORTS						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,662	April 30	16,288	11,808
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	April 30	9,143	9,474
Total imports, 2 countries	26,113	34,923	38,919		25,431	21,282
CONTINENT						
Netherlands	9,990	14,163	12,156	April 30	7,053	11,346
Germany	8,876	12,445	13,767	March 31	6,237	11,180
Belgium	3,396	3,597	3,439	March 31	1,506	2,683
France	6,073	6,786	6,953	Dec. 31	2,698	2,827
Total 4 continental countries	28,335	36,991	36,315		17,494	28,036
Total above imports	54,448	71,914	75,234		42,925	49,318

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their export seasons, 1925-28,

Country	1925	1926	1927	Jan. 1 to	1927	1928
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina e/	37,821	65,866	73,923	May 19	a/35,426	b/34,098
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	Aptil 1 to	1927-28	1928-29
India f/	12,326	7,675	c/ 8,866	May 19 d/	937	671

Official sources except as otherwise noted.

a/ Official figures through April 30, trade figures to date. b/ Official figures through April 18, trade figures to date. c/ Official figures through February 28, trade figures to date. d/ Trade figures. e/ Export year beginning January 1. f/ Export year beginning April 1.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928
(In dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Month and week	Winnipeg	Minneapolis	Buenos Aires	Margin of Minneapolis price over	
	No. 1 N.W.C.	No. 1 N.W.C.	4% early delivery	Winnipeg	Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
January-					
1st week	1.81	2.18	1.60	37	58
2nd week	1.83	2.24	1.61	41	63
3rd week	1.84	2.28	1.65	44	63
4th week	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February-					
1st week	1.83	2.25	1.62	42	63
2nd week	1.83	2.26	1.63	43	63
3rd week	1.83	2.27	1.61	44	66
4th week	1.85	2.27	1.62	42	65
March-					
1st week	1.86	2.28	1.61	42	67
2nd week	1.88	2.30	1.63	42	67
3rd week	1.92	2.33	1.66	41	67
4th week	1.93	2.37	1.68	44	69
5th week	1.91	2.34	1.68	43	66
April-					
1st week	1.92	2.36	1.68	44	68
2nd week	1.93	2.33	1.68	40	65
3rd week	1.94	2.36	1.70	42	66
4th week	1.96	2.38	1.70	42	68
May-					
1st week	1.98	2.44	1.73	46	71
2nd week	2.01	2.49	1.72	48	77
3rd week	2.00	2.46	1.73	46	73
4th week	2.02	2.46	1.74	44	72

Compiled from Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by carlot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York "Journal of Commerce". Buenos Aires: New York "Journal of Commerce". For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service release FF-22, March 13, 1928.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-26

July 9, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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FLAXSEED SITUATION IN JUNE, 1928

Flaxseed prices decreased in June in Buenos Aires, Winnipeg and Minneapolis after having maintained a steady upward movement from November through May, according to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The decline is partially attributed by the trade to a falling off in demand for linseed cake in European countries, and large reserves of seed held by buyers, but there is a tendency toward a seasonal decline in flax prices about this time. Flaxseed stocks in North America continue to move rapidly into consuming channels and on June 23 were 27.9 per cent below those of the same time last year. In the United States the decrease compared with last year was 45.7 per cent, while Canada reports a decrease of 15.7 per cent.

United States imports for the season continue below those of last year. Imports into the United Kingdom which were low during the beginning of the season, have increased and for the period September 1 to May 31 were 3 per cent above those for the same period last year. Continental European imports continued heavy during April, but have been reported as declining since then. Total exports from four principal exporting countries, although above those of recent years, are not maintaining the lead shown earlier in the season. Exports from September 1 to June 16 were 7 per cent above those for the same period last year while from September 1 to May 19 the increase amounted to 8.9 per cent.

Stocks

Commercial stocks in the United States continue to decrease. On June 23 they were 778,000 bushels or 655,000 bushels below stocks at the same time last year while on May 26 they were only 303,000 bushels below those of the corresponding date last year. Stocks in the Western Grain Division of Canadaare also below those of last year and the commercial stocks reported in North America the fourth week in June amounted to 2,532,000 bushels compared with 3,513,000 bushels at the same time last year. See table page 4. Argentine flaxseed is now moving at a rate slightly under that of this time last year. The latest official estimate of the exportable surplus of Argentine flaxseed is that of April 19 when the surplus was estimated at 42,793,000 bushels compared with a surplus of 38,659,000 bushels on April 12, 1927. Subtracting from these estimates the trade estimates of exports to June 16, there remained on that date a surplus of about 32,961,000 bushels, compared with 21,698,000 bushels remaining at the corresponding time last year or a difference of 11,263,000 bushels. Argentine production this year was 10,353,000 bushels greater than last year. See table page 4.

Exports and imports

Exports as far as reported for the four chief exporting countries from September 1 to June 16 were 7 per cent larger than during the same period last season but are not maintaining as great a lead over last year as was shown earlier in the season. Argentina exported 61,868,000 bushels during this period this season compared with 55,890,000 bushels during the same time last year. Since the beginning of the current Argentine season in January, however, exports have been 2,011,000 bushels below those of the same period last year. Exports from India, which were high from September through March declined with the beginning of the new Indian season on April 1 and from April 1 to June 16 were 1,514,000 bushels compared with 1,914,000 bushels exported during the same time last season. The reduced exports are probably partially at least the result of the smaller crop of the present season. Exports from Russia and Canada since the beginning of the season in September have been below those of the previous season.

Imports into the United States and the United Kingdom from September 1 to May 31 amounted to 24,985,000 bushels compared with 29,346,000 bushels for the same time last year. The decrease is accounted for by a decrease of 29 per cent in imports into the United States for the period as compared with imports during the same months last season. Imports into the United Kingdom through May were 3.2 per cent larger than during that period last season. Imports into Continental Europe for the present season have been large and have offset to a large extent the decreased takings of the United States. Imports into Netherlands, Belgium and Germany from September 1 through April 30 and to France from September through December amounted to 30,272,000 bushels or 53.2 per cent above the amount imported during the corresponding periods last season. The large demand in Continental Europe was attributed partially to the demand for linseed meal as livestockfeed. This demand is reported to be falling off and shipments to have dropped accordingly. See tables page 5.

Prices

Flaxseed prices in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires dropped in June after having maintained a steady upward tendency since November 1927. High prices in recent months in the face of larger supplies of Argentine flaxseed and low linseed oil prices have been maintained largely by the Continental European demand for cake and meal as livestock feed. This factor has now become less significant. According to a trade paper the continent, after heavy initial purchases, has failed to maintain the early promise and shipments are becoming smaller. Due to large reserves held by seed buyers and the weakness of oil values, the tendency of prices has been to decline. The average price in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires for the first four weeks of June was about equal to the June average of last year and above that of June 1926. Prices in Minneapolis were above the June average of 1927 and 1926. The margin of the Minneapolis price over those of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires was above the June average for the last three years. See table page 6, for weekly average prices, January through June 1928. For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927 see Foreign Service Release, FF-22, March 13, 1928.

No revised figures of 1927 acreage and production have been received since the May review. The total production for 19 countries reported, remains at 158,421,000 bushels compared with 141,234,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1926 and a 1926 estimated world total of 142,035,000 bushels. See Foreign Service Release, FF-25, June 11, 1928.

The 1928 flax crop in Canada appears to be about average in condition the last of June, according to a report of the Manitoba Free Press. Conditions are said to be fair to good in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, but the crop is small in Alberta.

FLAX: Acreage and seed production in countries reporting for 1927, average 1909-1913, annual 1924-1927

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1924	1925	1926	1927	Per cent 1927 is of 1926
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
ACREAGE						
Coun. producing seed only (7)	11,597	14,960	13,958	13,893	14,020	100.9
Coun. producing seed and fiber (19)	4,240	4,005	5,112	5,294	5,454	103.0
Total reported (26) ..	15,837	18,965	19,070	19,187	19,474	101.5
Estimated world total ..	15,870	19,034	19,155	19,250		
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
SEED PRODUCTION						
North and South America (4)	63,651	87,867	115,100	96,391	112,959	117.2
Other countries (15) ...	46,720	43,974	38,974	44,843	45,462	101.4
Total reported (19) ..	110,371	131,841	154,074	141,234	158,421	112.2
Estimated world total ..	111,187	132,667	155,174	142,035		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

FLAXSEED: Stocks in the United States and Canada at specified times in 1927-28 and corresponding dates in 1926-27

Month and week	United States a/		Canada b/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
September, 1st week c/ ...	584	583	2,026	1,496
November, 2nd week d/....	3,764	7,159	2,372	2,115
January, 1st week	2,684	4,051	3,243	2,831
June, 4th week	1,433	778	2,080	1,754

a/ Commercial stocks in store in principal United States markets at the close of the week ending Saturday. b/ Stocks in store in Canadian Western Grain Division on Friday of week noted. c/ Beginning of season. d/ Peak of holdings in the United States.

FLAXSEED: Exportable surplus and exports from Argentina for the current season beginning January 1, 1927 and 1928

Year	Exports a/		Exportable surplus a/		Exports to June 16 b/	
	Jan. 1 to	1,000 bu.	Date	1,000 bu.	From	1,000 bu.
1927	April 11	26,417	April 12	38,659	April 12	16,961
1928	April 18	29,183	April 19	42,793	April 19	9,832

a/ Official estimates. b/ Trade estimates.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1927-28

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1: 1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	Trade in current season to dates indicated with comparisons: Sept. 1 to	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
EXPORTS						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	June 16	a/55,890	b/61,868
India	16,908	7,426	8,360	June 16 c/	5,995	6,135
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	May 31	1,891	1,016
Russia and Danube d/	618	1,190	811	June 16	811	83
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045		64,587	69,102
IMPORTS						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,662	May 31	18,664	13,964
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	May 31	10,682	11,021
Total 2 countries	26,113	34,923	38,919		29,346	24,985
Continent						
Netherlands	9,990	14,163	12,156	April 30	7,053	11,346
Germany	8,876	12,445	13,767	April 30	8,009	13,208
Belgium	3,396	3,597	3,439	April 30	1,994	2,891
France	6,073	6,786	6,953	Dec. 31	2,698	2,827
Total 4 continental countries	28,335	36,991	36,315		19,754	30,272
Total above imports	54,448	71,914	75,234		49,100	55,257

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their export seasons, 1925-1928

Country	1925	1926	1927	Period	1927	1928
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1 Jan. 1 to	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina e/	37,821	65,866	73,923	June 16	a/41,026	b/39,018
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	Apr. 1 to	1927-28	1928-29
India f/	12,326	7,675	8,900	June 16 c/	1,914	1,514

Official sources except as otherwise noted.

a/ Official figures through April 30, trade figures to date. b/ Official figures through April 18, trade figures to date. c/ Official figures through April 30, trade figures to date. d/ Trade figures. e/ Exports year beginning January 1. f/ Export year beginning April 1.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928 (In dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Month and week	Winnipeg No. 1 N.W.C.	Minneapolis No. 1 N.W.C.	Buenos Aires 4% early delivery	Margin of Minneapolis price over Winnipeg	Margin of Minneapolis price over Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
January -					
1st week	1.81	2.18	1.60	37	58
2nd week	1.83	2.24	1.61	41	63
3rd week	1.84	2.28	1.65	44	63
4th week	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February -					
1st week	1.83	2.25	1.62	42	63
2nd week	1.83	2.26	1.63	43	63
3rd week	1.83	2.27	1.61	44	66
4th week	1.85	2.27	1.62	42	65
March -					
1st week	1.86	2.28	1.61	42	67
2nd week	1.88	2.30	1.63	42	67
3rd week	1.92	2.33	1.66	41	67
4th week	1.93	2.37	1.68	44	69
5th week	1.91	2.34	1.68	43	66
April -					
1st week	1.92	2.36	1.68	44	68
2nd week	1.93	2.33	1.68	40	65
3rd week	1.94	2.36	1.70	42	66
4th week	1.96	2.38	1.70	42	68
May -					
1st week	1.98	2.44	1.73	46	71
2nd week	2.01	2.49	1.72	48	77
3rd week	2.00	2.46	1.73	46	73
4th week	2.02	2.46	1.74	44	72
June -					
1st week a/	2.00	2.41	1.72	41	69
2nd week	2.00	2.42	1.72	42	70
3rd week	1.99	2.40	1.70	41	70
4th week	1.96	2.38	1.68	42	70

Compiled from Minneapolis: Average of daily prices weighted by carlot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canada Grain Statistics, Canada Department of Trade and Commerce, and New York "Journal of Commerce". Buenos Aires: New York "Journal of Commerce". For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service release FF-22 March 13, 1928.

a/ Week ending June 2.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

August 14, 1928

F.S.
FF-27

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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FLAXSEED MARKET SITUATION IN JULY 1928

Flaxseed prices in July in three important markets, Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires, continued the weakening tendency begun the middle of June, according to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. As previously noted there is a tendency toward a seasonal decline in flaxseed prices at about this time. The average price for the first four weeks of July 1928 was below the July average for the past three years in all three markets. Prices in Minneapolis declined rapidly and by the fourth week of July had reached a level below that of the first week of January. During the past few years the market has shown a tendency to decline or remain fairly stationary after the entrance of the new Argentine crop on January 1. This year, however, an upward trend begun in January continued until late in June. The margin of the Minneapolis price over those of the other two markets dropped during the past month. Monthly average prices from January to June and weekly prices for July of the current year will be found on page 3.

Stocks in commercial centers of Canada and the United States continue to decline and on July 28 amounted to only 1,912,000 bushels compared with 2,889,000 bushels at the same time last year. See table, page 3. Exports from Argentina are below those of last year and stocks available for export are high. The official estimate of exportable surplus on July 12 was 28,815,000 bushels, or 7,052,000 bushels above the estimate at the same time last year. Last year's estimate was about 9,000,000 bushels below the actual exports from then to the end of the season.

Imports of flaxseed into the chief importing countries during the current season beginning September 1 have been much higher than those of last season with the exception of the United States imports, which were low, due partly to the increased United States production of 1927. During May, however, imports declined in Germany and Netherlands and were below the imports of May 1927, while in Belgium the imports were higher. United States imports in June were only 1,644,190 bushels compared with 2,925,067 bushels in June last year. Imports into the United Kingdom during June were 1,235,480 bushels and although below those of May were 413,360 bushels above June imports last year. Total exports from four important exporting countries from September 1 to July 21 are still above exports for the corresponding period last year. Since the beginning of the new Argentine export season in January, however, exports have failed to maintain their high rate and exports from Argentina and India in their current seasons have been below the exports for the same time last year. See table page 2.

Prospects for the new crops in Canada and the United States and an indication of the area sown to flaxseed in Argentina, together with figures available for a few minor producing countries, will be published by the Foreign Service later this month.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1927-28

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1			Trade in current season to date indicated with comparisons		
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	September 1 to	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Exports-						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	July 21	a/63,824	b/68,564
India	16,908	7,426	8,360	July 21 c/	7,240	7,316
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	June 30	2,547	1,708
Russia and Danube d/	618	1,190	811	July 21	811	83
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045		74,422	77,671
Imports-						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,662	June 30	21,589	15,608
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	June 30	11,504	12,256
Total 2 countries	26,113	34,923	38,919		33,093	27,864
Continent						
Netherlands	9,990	14,163	12,156	May 31	8,486	12,720
Germany	8,876	12,445	13,767	May 31	9,957	15,107
Belgium	3,396	3,597	3,439	May 31	2,342	3,307
France	6,073	6,786	6,953	Feb.29	3,387	4,001
Total 4 Continental countries	28,335	36,991	36,315		24,172	35,135
Total above imports	54,448	71,914	75,234		57,265	62,999

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their export seasons, 1925-1928

Country	Year beginning	1925	1926	1927	Period	1927	1928
		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina	January 1	37,821	65,866	73,923	Jan. 1 to July 21	a/48,960	b/45,712
India	April 1	12,326	7,675	8,900	April 1 to July 21 c/	3,159	2,695

a/ Official figures through April 12 trade figures to date. b/ Official figures through April 18 trade figures to date. c/ Official figures through May 31 trade figures to date. d/ Trade figures.

FLAXSEED: Stocks in the United States and Canada at specified times in 1927-28 and corresponding dates in 1926-27

Month and week	United States a/		Canada b/	
	1926-27	1927-28	1926-27	1927-28
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
September, 1st week c/	584	583	2,026	1,496
November, 2nd week d/	3,764	7,159	2,372	2,115
January, 1st week	2,684	4,051	3,243	2,831
July, 4th week	909	615	1,980	1,297

a/ Commercial stocks in store in principal United States markets at the close of the week ending Saturday. b/ Stocks in store in Canadian Western Grain Division on Friday of week noted. c/ Beginning of season. d/ Peak of holdings in the United States.

FLAXSEED: Monthly or weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928

(in dollars per bushel of 56 pounds)

Month and week	Winnipeg	Minneapolis	Buenos Aires	Margin of Minneapolis prices over	
	No. 1 N.W.C.	No. 1 N.W.C.	4% early delivery	Winnipeg	Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
Monthly average-					
January	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February	1.84	2.27	1.61	43	66
March	1.90	2.33	1.63	43	70
April	1.94	2.36	1.79	42	57
May	2.00	2.46	1.72	46	74
June	1.97	2.38	a/1.70	41	68
July-					
1st week	1.89	2.23	1.68	34	55
2nd week	1.89	2.21	1.68	32	53
3rd week	1.87	2.21	1.68	34	53
4th week	a/1.84	2.16	1.65	32	51

Compiled from - Minneapolis: Average daily prices weighted by carlot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Dairy Market Record". Winnipeg: Canadian Grain Statistics, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. Buenos Aires: Review of the River Plate and New York "Journal of Commerce". For monthly average prices per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927 see Foreign Service release FF-22, March 15, 1928.
a/ New York Journal of Commerce.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-28

August 24, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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FLAXSEED PROSPECTS FOR THE 1928 SEASON

The total area sown to flaxseed in the United States, Canada, Argentina and seven minor producing countries in 1928 is about equal to the area reported for the same countries in 1927, according to preliminary estimates received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from official sources and the International Institute of Agriculture. An increase of 1.6 per cent in the estimate of area sown in Argentina over the final estimate of last year and increases in countries of minor importance are offset by a decrease of 5.2 per cent in the acreage of North America, including a decrease of 2.6 per cent in the United States area and a decrease of 20.8 per cent in Canada. These countries include all areas from which the United States usually takes its total supply. Russia and India are the two important flaxseed producing countries for which no acreage reports are as yet available. The Russian crop in recent years has played little part in the world market, while the Indian crop affects our supply indirectly by its effect on the European demand for Argentine seed. The first forecast of acreage in India will not be available until January 1929. Prospects for the Manchurian soybean crop, which serves as a supplementary source of drying and paint oils, are reported to be excellent.

The preliminary forecast of the area sown to flaxseed in Argentina is 7,166,000 acres compared with a preliminary forecast of 6,721,000 acres and a final estimate of 7,055,000 acres for 1927. This is a record acreage for Argentina. The preliminary estimate of acreage has ranged from 89.5 per cent of the final acreage in 1923 to 95 per cent of the final in 1927. It has more nearly approximated the final acreage each year. See table, page 3. Recent reports have indicated satisfactory weather conditions for the growing crop with an excellent outlook to date. It is too early, however, to form any opinion of the coming crop since weather conditions from now until the time of harvest will be a determining factor in the final outcome. A yield equal to the average for the past five years would give a harvest on the acreage as now reported of 73,810,000 bushels. Assuming the present report to be 95 per cent of the final report of acreage, a yield equal to the five year average would result in a harvest of 75,432,000 bushels compared with last year's officially reported 79,444,000 bushels. It should be remembered, however, that last year export figures indicated a larger probable crop than the official final estimate of production.

The acreage sown to flaxseed in Canada is now estimated at 377,000 acres compared with 476,000 acres last year. The flaxseed acreage of Canada has decreased rapidly since 1924 and should the present estimate be borne out this year's acreage will be the smallest since 1909. No official estimates of production will be available until September. The

condition of the Canadian crop on August 1 was 98 per cent of the ten year average compared with a condition of 98 per cent on July 1 of this year and 98 on August 1, 1927. A yield equal to that of last year on the basis of the present acreage would result in a crop of 3,883,000 bushels compared with last year's crop of 4,885,000 bushels.

The production of flaxseed in the United States for the present season based on August 1 conditions is estimated at 21,461,000 bushels compared with last year's crop of 26,570,000 bushels. This decrease is due to a decrease in acreage of 2.6 per cent and an indicated decrease in yield per acre to 8.7 bushels compared with 9.1 bushels per acre harvested last year. The acreage reported for 7 minor producing countries is above that of 1927 in every case. Weather conditions in Europe have been hot and dry and many crops have suffered from drought, according to trade reports. Recent rains have been reported for many districts, however. The flaxseed outlook in Latvia the middle of August was poor, according to a cable from the International Institute of Agriculture. Tables giving estimates of acreage and production of flaxseed for countries reporting for 1928, with figures for earlier years for comparison, are given below.

Outlook for Manchurian Soybean Crop Good

Reports on the coming soy bean crop of Manchuria are very favorable and should the weather remain fine the crop should be a bumper one, according to a trade journal. Conditions the first part of July were ideal with plenty of moisture and sunshine all over Manchuria. Due to the increase of immigration the land cultivated in North Manchuria this year is larger than usual. The increase in acreage under beans is believed to be from 10 to 15 per cent, according to the Chinese Economic Bulletin.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Per cent 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	22,424	19,335	26,570	21,461	80.8
Tunis	37	37	37	41	51	124.4
Bulgaria	6	3	2	3	6	200.0
Total above countries(3)	19,586	22,464	19,374	26,614	21,518	80.9
Est. world total	111,187	155,174	142,035	a/159,000		

a/ Preliminary.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Per cent 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
COUNTRIES PRODUCING SEED ONLY -						
Canada	1,035	843	738	476	377	79.2
United States	2,490	3,078	2,907	2,907	2,831	97.4
Argentina	4,113	6,201	6,672	7,055	b/ 7,166	b/ 101.6
French Morocco	---	50	47	59	62	105.1
Tunis	8	6	6	6	8	133.3
Total 5 countries	7,646	10,178	10,370	10,503	10,444	99.4
COUNTRIES PRODUCING SEED AND FIBER -						
France	62	61	66	63	64	101.6
Czechoslovakia	61	61	54	54	54	100.0
Netherlands	33	38	34	27	39	144.4
Finland	12	13	14	14	14	100.0
Bulgaria	1	1	c/	1	1	100.0
Total above countries (10)	7,815	10,352	10,538	10,662	10,616	99.6
Estimated world total	15,870	19,155	19,250	d/19,549		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included. b/ Preliminary estimate. See table below for relation between 1st and final estimates 1923-1927. c/ Less than 500 acres. d/ Preliminary.

FLAXSEED: First and final acreage estimates for Argentina 1923-1928

Year	August	September	Final	Per cent preliminary is of final
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
1923	4,823		5,391	89.5
1924		5,683	6,323	89.9
1925	a/ 5,710		6,201	92.1
1926	6,301		6,672	94.4
1927	6,721		7,055	95.3
1928	7,166			

a/ September 4, 1925.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-29

October 1, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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FLAXSEED PROSPECTS IN SEPTEMBER 1928

The September estimate of area sown to flaxseed in Argentina for the 1928-29 season is 7,389,000 acres or 4.7 per cent above last year's final estimate of 7,055,000 acres, according to a report to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Decreases are reported for the United States and Canada compared with last year, however, so that the total acreage for 1928 in 13 countries so far reported is only 2.1 per cent above the area reported for the same countries in 1927. Reports from Argentina continue favorable and present prospects point to a good crop in that country. The outlook in North America based on September 1 conditions indicated a crop 3,859,000 bushels below the 1927 production. A decrease of 12 per cent is expected in the United States compared with last year while Canada reports a decrease of 14 per cent.

The other important seed producing countries are Russia and India, neither of which have in recent years had an important bearing on the United States supply situation. The first estimate of area in India will not be available until January 1929.

The following tables give estimates of area and production for the new 1928 season for countries so far reported, with earlier years for comparison.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Per cent 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	22,424	19,335	26,570	23,400	88.1
Canada	12,040	6,237	5,995	4,865	4,196	85.9
Tunis	37	41	37	41	51	124.4
Bulgaria	6	4	2	3	6	200.0
Total above countries	31,626	28,706	25,369	31,499	27,653	87.8
Estimated world total	111,187	155,094	142,273	159,000a/		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.
a/ Preliminary.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Countries a/	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Per cent 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
COUNTRIES PRODUCING SEED ONLY-						
Canada	1,035	843	738	476	378	79.4
United States	2,490	3,078	2,907	2,907	2,831	97.4
Argentina	4,113	6,201	6,672	7,055	7,389	104.7
Other seed producing countries b/ (2)	8	56	53	65	70	107.7
Total 5 countries	7,646	10,178	10,370	10,503	10,668	101.6
COUNTRIES PRODUCING SEED AND FIBER-						
Countries prev. rept'd. and unchanged b/ (5)	169	174	168	159	172	108.2
Lithuania, new	143	200	200	208	237	113.9
Belgium, new	49	58	59	52	59	113.5
Northern Ireland, new	43	38	31	26	37	142.3
Total above countries (13)	8,050	10,648	10,828	10,948	11,173	102.1
Estimated world total	15,870	19,155	19,241	19,561		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

b/ See Foreign Service release FF-28, August 24, 1928, for countries included.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-30

October 10, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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THE FLAXSEED MARKET SITUATION IN SEPTEMBER 1928

The flaxseed supply available for use in the Northern Hemisphere between September 1 and the new Argentine harvest season appears to be no larger and possibly smaller than last year, unless Russia puts a much larger supply on the market, according to information received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The new flaxseed year opened in the Northern Hemisphere with a decrease in production reported to date, decreased commercial stocks in the United States and Canada, and an apparently smaller balance of old crop remaining in India. The decrease in supply in these countries as compared with last year more than offsets the indicated increase in stocks of old crop still available for export in Argentina. This small supply has reacted to strengthen prices and although at the beginning of September they were below the corresponding prices last year, especially in the United States, by the fourth week of the month the price at Minneapolis as well as Buenos Aires and Winnipeg was within a few cents of last year's level.

The production of flaxseed in the United States in 1928 is now estimated at 22,472,000 bushels, according to the October report just released by the United States Crop Reporting Board. This is considerably below last year's crop of 26,570,000 bushels. Estimates for other countries were reported in FS - FF-29 put out October 1. A revised estimate for Canada is to be issued by the Canadian government on October 10.

The prices of flaxseed at Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires rallied with the beginning of the new United States season on September 1 and rose steadily during the last three weeks of September, but are still below the September averages of recent years. The advance in prices at Winnipeg and Buenos Aires was not as great as that at Minneapolis, however, and the margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires advanced considerably. The average of $2.05 per bushel for flaxseed at Minneapolis for the month of August was the lowest monthly average in that market since December 1921. The decline in prices during the last few months of the old season was attributed chiefly to the large crop harvested in Argentina in 1927-28 and a weakened demand for flaxseed products in importing countries.

Monthly average prices from January to August and weekly prices for September of the current year will be found on the following page. For prices at this time last year see FS-FF 16, November 25, 1927.

FLAXSEED: Monthly or weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928

Month and week	Winnipeg	Minneapolis	Buenos Aires	Margin of Minneapolis price over	
	No. 1 N.W.C.	No. 1 N.W.C.	4% early delivery	Winnipeg	Buenos Aires
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents
January	1.83	2.24	1.62	41	62
February	1.84	2.27	1.61	43	66
March	1.90	2.33	1.63	43	70
April	1.94	2.36	1.79	42	57
May	2.00	2.46	1.72	46	74
June	1.97	2.38	1.68	41	70
July	1.86	2.21	1.66	35	55
August	1.82	2.05	1.62	23	43
September:					
1st week ...	1.84	2.03	1.63	19	40
2nd week ...	1.87	2.07	1.64	20	43
3rd week ...	1.86	2.14	1.64	28	50
4th week ...	1.88	2.18	1.66	30	52

Source: Minneapolis: Average daily prices weighted by carlot sales compiled from Minneapolis "Daily Market Record". Winnipeg: Canadian Grain Statistics, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. Buenos Aires: Review of the River Plate and New York Journal of Commerce. For monthly average price per bushel in four important markets, September 1924 to December 1927 see Foreign Service Release, FF-22, March 13, 1928.

Flaxseed stocks in commercial centers of Canada and the United States at the beginning of the new season the first of September were below stocks of the two preceding years. Stocks in store at principal United States markets the first week of September were 317,000 bushels compared with 584,000 bushels at the corresponding time in 1927 and 1926. Since then stocks have increased slowly and at the close of the month amounted to 706,000 bushels compared with 1,583,000 bushels at the same time last year. Stocks in store in western Canada on August 31 as reported by the Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners were 530,000 bushels compared with 1,496,000 bushels in 1927 and 2,026,000 in 1926. On September 28 stocks had dropped to 424,000 bushels compared with 1,317,000 bushels last year. An official estimate of exportable surplus in Argentina is to be made on October 11 and will be published by the Foreign Service shortly after that date.

Exports from Argentina from September 1 to September 22 have been somewhat above those of the same period last year, while India has shipped slightly smaller amounts. Total shipments from four exporting countries during the season ended August 31, 1928 have been considerably higher than during the previous season. This was entirely due to the large increase in Argentine shipments since exports from India, Canada and Russia fell below the previous season. In the case of imports, the United States and the United Kingdom took much smaller quantities than during the previous season but this was more than compensated by the large increase in takings by the important continental importers. Exports from Argentina in her current season beginning January 1 are slightly above those of last season while exports from India in the current season beginning April 1 are lower than last year. Trade figures of important countries for the new season with earlier years for comparison are given on the following page.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1928-29

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1				Trade in current season with comparisons	
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28 preliminary	To Sept 24, 1927-28 c/	To Sept 22, 1928-29 c/
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Exports:						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	a/ 75,533	5,183	5,602
India	16,908	7,426	8,255	b/ 7,954	603	521
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	2,425		
Russia & Danube c/	618	1,190	811	83		
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045	85,995	5,786	6,123
Imports:						
United States	12,011	19,971	24,093	18,160		
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	14,074		
Total two countries	26,113	34,923	38,350	32,234		
Continent						
Netherlands	9,990	14,163	12,156	15,733		
Germany	8,876	12,445	13,767	d/ 18,300		
Belgium	3,396	3,597	3,439	d/ 4,700		
France	6,073	6,786	6,953	d/ 8,000		
Total four cont. countries	28,335	36,991	36,315	46,733		
Total above imports	54,448	71,914	74,665	78,967		

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their export seasons, 1925-28

Country	Year beginning	1925	1926	1927	Period	1927	1928
		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Jan 1 to Sept 22 a/	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina	Jan 1	37,821	65,866	74,585	Apr 1 to	56,530	58,282
India	Apr 1	12,326	7,675	8,900	Sept 22 b/	4,777	3,853

a/ Official figures to July 12, trade figures to date.
b/ Official figures to July 31, trade figures to date.
c/ Trade figures.
d/ Includes rough estimate for August, for which month official figures are not yet available.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-31

October 30, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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SECOND ESTIMATE OF ARGENTINE FLAXSEED ACREAGE AND FLAXSEED PRODUCTION IN RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES

The latest estimate of the 1928-29 flaxseed acreage of Argentina, issued by the Argentine governments on October 23 is 7,297,000 acres, according to a report to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This is a slight decrease from the September estimate of 7,389,000 acres but is still 3.4 per cent above the final estimate of last year which reported an area of 7,055,000 acres sown to flaxseed. All reports on the condition of the crop to date have been very good and unless some unexpected conditions intervene a large crop is looked for. Russian flaxseed production is officially estimated at 22,755,000 bushels, according to reports to the Russian Information Bureau, which is somewhat below last year's good crop of 23,621,000 bushels.

The production of flaxseed for 1928 in 8 countries including Russia is now estimated at 50,341,000 bushels compared with 55,949,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1927 or a decrease of 10 per cent. No new estimate of Canadian production has been issued, the October report gives only the condition of the crop at harvest as compared with the ten-year average. The condition this year was 94 per cent compared with 93 per cent at the same time last year. The acreage is reported below that of last year, however. Conditions in the United States were unfavorable during September and the estimate of production based on the October 1 condition declined to 22,472,000 bushels compared with 26,570,000 bushels last year. The estimated production for North America for 1928 is now 4,787,000 bushels below the production of last year.

The estimate of total acreage in 17 countries so far reported is 1.4 per cent above the acreage reported for the same countries in 1927. In five seed producing countries including the important producers Argentina, United States and Canada an increase of .7 per cent is reported due to the increase in Argentina which offsets decreases in the United States and Canada. The first estimate of area in India will not be available until January 1929.

The official estimate of the exportable surplus of flaxseed in Argentina on October 11 was 10,180,000 bushels. The estimate on October 11, 1927 was 6,137,000 bushels, but official figures of exports show that shipments for the remainder of the season through January 1 were over 9 million bushels greater than the amount estimated as available for export on October 11.

FLAXSEED: Production in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Percent 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	Per cent
United States	19,543	22,424	19,335	26,570	22,472	84.6
Canada	12,040	6,237	5,995	4,885	4,196	85.9
Russia	18,984	23,730	20,472	23,621	22,755	96.3
Belgium	472	488	468	407	468	115.0
Czechoslovakia	435	416	331	371	354	95.4
Austria	112	64	43	51	39	76.5
Bulgaria	6	4	2	3	6	200.0
Tunis	37	41	37	41	51	124.4
Total above countries	51,629	53,404	46,683	55,949	50,341	90.0
Estimated world total	111,187	155,094	142,273	159,000		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Percent 1928 is of 1927
Countries producing seed only -	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
Argentina	4,113	6,201	6,572	7,055	7,297	103.4
United States	2,490	3,078	2,907	2,907	2,831	97.4
Canada	1,035	843	738	476	378	79.4
Other seed producing countried (2) b/	8	56	53	65	70	107.7
Total above count. (5)	7,646	10,178	10,370	10,503	10,576	100.7
Countries producing seed and fiber -						
Countries prev. rept'd and unchanged (7)	342	409	392	382	441	115.4
Poland, new	192	266	268	271	274	101.1
Latvia, new	162	193	158	156	166	106.4
Esthonia, new	135	113	83	88	91	103.4
France, revised	62	61	66	63	72	114.3
Austria, revised	13	9	9	9	9	100.0
Total European count. (12)	906	1,051	976	969	1,053	108.7
Total above count. (17)	8,552	11,229	11,346	11,472	11,629	101.4
Estimated world total	15,870	19,155	19,241	19,561		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

b/ Morocco and Tunis, see Foreign Service release FF-28.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F. S.
FF-32

November 20, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAX SEED

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THE FLAXSEED MARKET SITUATION IN OCTOBER 1928

Latest reports on the flaxseed supply available for use in the Northern Hemisphere between now and the new Argentine harvest season continue to indicate supplies below those of last year, according to the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The November estimate of the production in North America is 23,525,000 bushels or 7,930,000 bushels below the production in 1927. The crop of the United States is now estimated at 20,026,000 bushels compared with 26,570,000 bushels last year, while the last estimate for the Canadian crop issued by the Dominion Department of Agriculture is 3,499,000 bushels compared with 4,885,000 bushels, produced in 1927. This is the lowest production reported for Canada since 1909.

The prices of flaxseed in Minneapolis, Winnipeg and Buenos Aires continued to strengthen during the first two weeks of October but declined slightly the third and fourth weeks of the month. The price in Minneapolis reached a level above the October average for 1927 and 1926. The price in Winnipeg was also above the October average of last year while in Buenos Aires prices were about equal to those of last year. The advance in price at Minneapolis was more rapid than in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires, and the margin of the Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires advanced considerably. See page 2.

Flaxseed stocks in the commercial centers of the United States and Canada the fourth week of October were still below those of the same time last year although they have increased considerably since September 1. Stocks in store in Western Canada on October 26 were reported by the Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners to be 1,074,000 bushels compared with 1,208,000 at the same time last year and 1,788,000 bushels in 1926. Stocks in store in principal United States markets the fourth week of October were only 2,581,000 bushels compared with 5,353,000 bushels in 1927 and 3,106,000 bushels in 1926.

Exports of flaxseed from Argentina and Canada in the current season beginning September 1 continue above those of last year, while shipments from India remain low. Shipments from Argentina and India through October 20 and Canada through September 30 amounted to 13,385,000 bushels compared with 14,406,000 bushels shipped by the same countries during the corresponding period last year. Imports into United States and the United Kingdom during September were 2,537,000 bushels compared with 3,247,000 bushels imported last year. The only continental country for which figures are available for the new season is the Netherlands, which imported 1,745,000 bushels during September compared with 931,000 bushels during September 1927.

Exports from Argentina in her current season beginning January 1 continue above those of last season, while exports from India in the season beginning April 1 are below those of last year. Trade figures of important countries for the new season with earlier years for comparison are given on page 3.

The latest estimate of the Manchurian soy bean crop, which serves as a supplementary source of drying and paint oils, is 5,450,000 short tons, or 8 per cent above the revised estimate of last year. The crop was harvested and stored in excellent condition and is of good quality in contrast to last year when a considerable portion of the beans failed to mature properly and contained too much moisture.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928 and corresponding prices for 1927

Month and week	Winnipeg No. 1 N.W.C.		Minneapolis No.1 N.W.C.		Buenos Aires 4% early del.		Margin of Minneapolis price over Winnipeg		Margin of Minneapolis price over Buenos Aires	
	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
September -										
1st week...	1.94	1.84	2.20	2.03	1.70	1.63	26	19	50	40
2nd " ...	1.95	1.87	2.21	2.07	1.72	1.64	26	20	49	43
3rd " ...	1.98	1.86	2.25	2.14	1.73	1.64	27	28	52	50
4th " ...	1.94	1.88	2.19	2.18	1.69	1.66	25	30	50	52
October -										
1st week...	1.92	1.92	2.19	2.22	1.67	1.68	27	30	52	54
2nd " ...	1.92	1.97	2.18	2.34	1.67	1.72	26	37	51	62
3rd " ...	1.86	1.93	2.11	2.29	1.67	1.72	25	36	44	57
4th " ...	1.82	1.90	2.08	2.28	1.63	1.70	26	38	45	58
5th " ...	1.81	1.92	2.07	2.30	1.59	1.70	26	38	48	60
November -										
1st week...	1.86		2.13		1.60		27		53	
2nd " ...	1.84		2.17		1.59		33		58	
3rd " ...	1.83		2.16		1.58		33		58	
4th " ...										

Compiled from - Minneapolis: Average daily prices weighted by carlot sales, compiled from Minneapolis Daily Market Record: Winnipeg: Canadian Grain Statistics Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. Buenos Aires: New York Journal of Commerce. For monthly average price per bushel in four important markets September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service Release, FF-22, March 13, 1928.

a/ New York Journal of Commerce.

b/ Week ending November 2nd or 3rd in 1928.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries year beginning September 1, 1924-25 to 1928-29

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1				Trade in current season with comparisons	
	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	To Oct. 20, 1927-28	To Oct. 20, 1928-29
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Exports:						
Argentina	37,693	66,835	65,935	a/75,533	11,143	11,917
India	16,908	7,426	8,255	8,031	1,263	983
Canada	5,756	2,541	2,939	2,425	b/ 200	b/ 485
Russia and Danube c/	618	1,190	811	83		
Total above exports	60,975	77,992	78,045	86,072	14,406	13,385
Imports:					b/	b/
United States	12,011	19,971	24,093	18,160	1,716	1,254
United Kingdom	14,102	14,952	14,257	14,074	1,531	1,283
Total 2 countries	26,113	34,923	38,350	32,234	3,247	2,537
Continent						
Netherlands	9,990	14,163	12,156	15,733	931	1,745
Germany	8,876	12,445	13,767	18,727		
Belgium	3,396	3,597	3,439	4,666		
France	6,073	6,786	6,953	8,011		
Total 4 continental countries	28,335	36,991	36,315	47,137		
Total above imports	54,448	71,914	74,665	79,371		

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their export seasons 1925-1928

Country	Year beginning	1925	1926	1927	period	1927	1928
		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels		1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Argentina	January 1	37,821	65,866	74,585	Jan. 1 to Oct.20 a/	62,491	64,597
India	April 1	12,326	7,675	8,900	Apr. 1 to Oct.20 d/	5,542	4,392

a/ Official figures through July 12, trade figures to date.
b/ Through September 30 only.
c/ Trade figures.
d/ Official figures through August, trade figures to date.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
FF-33

December 11, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON FLAX AND FLAXSEED

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THE FLAXSEED SITUATION IN NOVEMBER 1928

The price of flaxseed in Minneapolis and Winnipeg continued to rise during November, while in Buenos Aires a decline was reported during the latter part of the month. The November averages in all three markets were above the corresponding averages of the past two years, however, and the margin of the Minneapolis price over those of Winnipeg and Buenos Aires is above any November average of the past four years with the exception of the November 1926 average in Buenos Aires. Commercial stocks in both Canada and the United States are well below those of the two preceding years. The total reported for the two countries the beginning of December was only 2,496,000 bushels compared with 7,179,000 bushels in 1927 and 5,505,000 bushels in 1926. Exports from Argentina and India through November 17 and Canada through October 31, amounted to 18,359,000 bushels compared with 18,681,000 bushels exported during the corresponding period last year. Imports into the United States and the United Kingdom from September 1 to October 31 were 4,680,000 bushels compared with 5,869,000 bushels during the same period last year. The countries of continental Europe, however, have taken much larger supplies. Reports on the production of flaxseed in the Northern Hemisphere have now definitely established a crop well below that of last year and the outcome of the Argentine crop is of great interest. All reports so far received have been optimistic and a good crop is expected.

Production

Flaxseed production in 10 countries reporting for 1928 is now estimated at 52,141,000 bushels or 14.2 per cent below the 60,767,000 bushels produced by the same countries in 1927. This estimate includes the important producers, the United States, Russia and Canada. No estimates are available for Argentina and India, the other important producers. Production in the United States is far below that of last season, while the production in Canada is the smallest reported since 1909. The final world output for the 1928 season now depends largely upon the production in Argentina, where the harvest is just beginning and from which about 50 per cent of the world output is obtained. The new crop from India does not come upon the market until April and May and is therefore of little significance at this time. The first estimate of the Argentine crop is to be published by the Argentine government on December 21, all reports received to date have been favorable and the acreage sown is a record one. Estimates of acreage and production for countries reporting in 1928 with earlier years for comparison will be found on page 4.

Prices

The average price of No. 1 flaxseed at Minneapolis for November was $2.35 per bushel which was above the November average for 1926 and 1927. The price has increased steadily since the beginning of the new season. The firm market is probably due largely to the small crop in North America and the resulting low stocks at commercial centers, together with an active demand for linseed meal at high prices. Prices in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires have also advanced and are above those of the corresponding periods in 1926 and 1927. The rise in the Minneapolis price has been more marked, however, the margin of 36 to 48 cents in the Minneapolis price over that of Winnipeg and from 58 to 82 cents over that of Buenos Aires during November was high. There is a tendency toward a strong seasonal upward trend in the margin at this time of the year and the high point is generally reached between January and March when the new Argentine crop is entering the market in large quantities. For weekly average prices in three markets, September through November 1928 and 1927, see table page 3.

Stocks

Flaxseed stocks in the commercial centers reporting to the Governments of the United States and Canada on December 1 were 4,683,000 bushels below those of the corresponding time last year and 3,009,000 bushels below those of 1926. Stocks reported for the United States were only 1,343,000 bushels compared with 4,703,000 in 1927 and 2,857,000 in 1926. Canada reported a totel of 1,153,000 bushels on November 30 compared with 2,476,000 bushels in 1927 and 2,648,000 bushels in 1926.

No recent estimate of exportable surplus in Argentina is available but if exports from January 1 to November 17 are deducted from the estimated surplus available on January 1, 1928 we find less than 4 million bushels remained for shipment until the beginning of the new season.

Imports and exports

Shipments from Argentina and Canada since the beginning of the new United States crop season September 1 have been slightly above those of the same period last year, but this increase has been more than offset by decreased shipments from India during the same period. Argentine exports from January 1 to November 17 during the current crop year beginning January 1, 1928 have amounted to 68,288,000 bushels compared with 67,272,000 bushels shipped during the same period last year, according to combined official and trade figures. Shipments from India from April 1 to November 17 have been only 4,732,000 bushels compared with 6,431,000 in the previous season. Imports into the United States and United Kingdom for the first two months of the present season are 1,189,000 bushels below imports for the same months last year. Continental European countries, however,

continue to take large supplies of seed, and imports into Germany, Belgium and France for September and the Netherlands for September and October were 6,071,000 bushels compared with 4,012,000 bushels imported during the same months last year. See tables page 5.

FLAXSEED: Weekly average price per bushel in specified markets in 1928 and corresponding prices for 1927

Month and week	Winnipeg		Minneapolis		Buenos Aires		Margin of Minneapolis price over			
	No. 1 N.W.C.		No. 1 N.W.		4% early del.		Winnipeg		Buenos Aires	
	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928	1927	1928
	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Dolls	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
Sept -										
1st week	1.94	1.84	2.20	2.03	1.70	1.63	26	19	50	40
2nd "	1.95	1.87	2.21	2.07	1.72	1.64	26	20	49	43
3rd "	1.98	1.86	2.25	2.14	1.73	1.64	27	28	52	50
4th "	1.94	1.88	2.19	2.18	1.69	1.66	25	30	50	52
Oct -										
1st week	1.92	1.92	2.19	2.22	1.67	1.68	27	30	52	54
2nd "	1.92	1.97	2.18	2.34	1.67	1.72	26	37	51	62
3rd "	1.86	1.93	2.11	2.29	1.67	1.72	25	36	44	57
4th "	1.82	1.90	2.08	2.28	1.63	1.70	26	38	45	58
Nov -										
1st week	1.81	1.92	2.07	2.30	1.59	1.70	26	38	48	60
2nd "	1.86	1.93	2.13	2.29	1.60	1.69	27	36	53	60
3rd "	1.84	1.98	2.17	2.34	1.59	1.76	33	36	58	58
4th "	1.83	1.99	2.16	2.43	1.58	1.69	33	44	58	74
5th "	1.82	1.96	2.14	2.44	1.58	1.62	32	48	56	82
Dec -										
1st week	1.81		2.14		1.57		33		57	
2nd "	1.80		2.16		1.58		36		58	
3rd "	1.79		2.14		1.57		35		57	
4th "	1.79		2.16		1.57		37		59	

Compiled from - Minneapolis: Average daily prices weighted by carlot sales, compiled from Minneapolis Daily Market Record. Winnipeg: Canadian Grain Statistics, Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. Buenos Aires: New York Journal of Commerce. For monthly average price per bushel in four important markets September 1924 to December 1927, see Foreign Service Release FF-22, March 13, 1928.

FLAX: Acreage in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country a/	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Percentage 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Per cent
Countries producing seed only						
Argentina	4,113	6,201	6,672	7,055	7,297	103.4
United States	2,490	3,078	2,907	2,906	2,831	97.4
Canada	1,035	843	738	476	349	73.3
Uruguay	127	185	175	175	196	112.0
Morocco	0	50	47	59	54	91.5
Tunis	8	6	6	6	8	133.3
Total above coun. (6)	7,773	10,363	10,545	10,677	10,735	100.5
Countries producing seed and fiber						
Coun. prev. reptd. and unchanged (11)	744	858	818	807	887	109.9
Russia, new	3,165	3,898	4,167	4,351	4,292	98.6
Latvia, revised	162	193	158	156	170	109.0
Total Eur. coun. (13)	4,071	4,949	5,143	5,314	5,349	100.7
Total above coun. (19)	11,844	15,312	15,688	15,991	16,084	100.6
Est. world total	15,870	19,143	19,239	19,557		

Flaxseed: Production in countries reporting for 1928, average 1909-1913, annual 1925-1928

Country	Average 1909-1913	1925	1926	1927	1928	Percentage 1928 is of 1927
	1,000 bush	1,000 bush	1,000 bush	1,000 bush	1,000 bush	Per cent
United States	19,543	22,424	19,335	26,570	20,026	75.4
Canada	12,040	6,237	5,995	4,885	3,499	71.6
Russia	18,984	23,730	20,472	23,621	22,755	96.3
Poland	1,703	2,441	2,814	3,041	3,080	101.3
Lithuania	1,126	1,571	1,574	1,405	1,377	98.0
Belgium	472	488	465	407	468	115.0
Czechoslovakia	435	416	331	371	353	95.1
Austria	112	64	43	51	44	86.3
Morocco	0	402	344	375	488	130.1
Tunis	37	41	37	41	51	124.4
Total above coun. (10)	54,452	57,814	51,410	60,767	52,141	85.8
Est. world total	111,200	155,100	142,300	159,000		

Official sources and International Institute of Agriculture.

a/ Figures in parenthesis indicate the number of countries included.

FLAXSEED: International trade of important importing and exporting countries, year beginning September 1, 1925-26 to 1928-29

Country	Trade for year beginning September 1			Trade in current season to date indicated, with comparisons		
	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28	Sept 1 to	1927-28	1928-29
	1,000 bush	1,000 bush	1,000 bush		1,000 bush	1,000 bush
Exports:						
Argentina	66,835	65,935	a/75,533	Nov 17 b/	16,182	16,409
India	7,426	8,255	8,031	Nov 17 c/	2,152	1,323
Canada	2,541	2,939	2,425	Oct 31	347	627
Russia & Danube b/	1,190	811	83		---	---
Total above exports	77,992	78,045	86,072		18,681	18,359
Imports:						
United States	19,971	24,093	18,160	Oct 31	3,474	2,462
United Kingdom	14,952	14,257	14,074	Oct 31	2,395	2,218
Total 2 coun. ...	34,923	38,350	32,234		5,869	4,680
Continent						
Netherlands	14,163	12,156	15,733	Oct 31	2,045	3,316
Germany	12,445	13,767	18,727	Sept 30	969	1,497
Belgium	3,597	3,439	4,666	Sept 30	291	272
France	6,786	6,953	8,011	Sept 30	707	986
Total 4 continental countries..	36,991	36,315	47,137		4,012	6,071
Total above imports	71,914	74,665	79,371		9,881	10,751

a/ Official figures through July 12, trade figures to date. b/ Trade figures. c/ Official figures to September 30, trade figures to date.

FLAXSEED: Exports from Argentina and India in their current seasons 1925-1928

Country	Year beginning	1925	1926	1927	Period	1927	1928
		1,000 bush	1,000 bush	1,000 bush		1,000 bush	1,000 bush
Argentina	Jan 1	37,821	65,866	74,585	Jan 1 to Nov 17 a/	67,272	68,288
India	Apr 1	12,326	7,675	8,900	Apr 1 to Nov 17 b/	6,431	4,732

a/ Official figures through October 10, trade figures to date.
b/ Official figures through September 30, trade figures to date.

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